



CERRO COPPER PRODUCTS CO.

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March 7, 2000

President

My Dear Cerro Associates:

I feel it necessary to now bring you up to date on an important issue concerning the health and safety of all of us who work at the Cerro facilities in Sauget. This Saturday and Sunday, March 11, 2000 and March 12, 2000, all parts of the Cerro operation, including the plant and all offices, including the Sales Offices for Cerro Copper Products Co. and Cerro Copper Tube Co., as well as the Executive offices will be closed from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. while the United States Environmental Protection Agency digs into and examines an old landfill site which now is under our truck lot east of the plant. This landfill dates from before World War II. Cerro purchased this land from the landfill owner/operator in 1957, at which time land filling activities had stopped. At no time to our knowledge did Cerro ever add to or contribute to this landfill. In following years, we leveled the site to grade with construction debris, used refractory, slag and rock.

We are now under a legal order from the EPA which requires us to permit them to trench into and uncover part of the site, examine the area and then fill in the trench.

The EPA advises us that the trenching will pose little hazard to Cerro employees. Nevertheless the health and safety of our workers now, as it has been in the past, is our utmost concern, and we prefer the side of caution. Many of you can recall a day in 1993 when the threat of severe flooding from the cresting of the Mississippi led us to close the Sauget facility for one shift. The circumstances this time are different, but the bottom line is the same: Safety First and Safety Always.

Accordingly, all operations will be closed following the 3rd shift Saturday, March 11, 2000 and Sunday, March 12, 2000 and will resume with the 2nd shift on those dates, as scheduled by your department. Day shift (1st) on both days will not be in operation. NO ONE, unless specifically permitted, may be on our property for any reason whatsoever during this period. If you have any questions about this matter, please contact Joe Grana, manager of our Environmental Department.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Sincerely,

Henry L. Schweich
President



A member of The Marmon Group of companies

